Hahn, Scott. “The Covenant Principle,” in *Genesis to Jesus: Journey through Scripture.* Cincinnati: Servant Books, 2007. P.1-7

Summary: A. Irwin

People rarely make it through reading the bible from cover to cover. There is a key compass: the word ‘Covenant’. It is all about ***why*** God and says what He does and says.

**The Covenant Principle:**

At the Last Supper Jesus said he was the ‘New Covenant’: ‘This cup is the cup of My blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.’ Biblical history is a series of covenants made by God with his chosen people, which climaxed in the final covenant of Jesus.

To understand Jesus’ covenant offering salvation, one needs to understand the previous ones.

In the Mass one hears:

*‘Father… You formed man in your own likeness and set him over the whole world… Even when he disobeyed you and lost your friendship you did not abandon him to the power of death, but helped all men to seek and find you.   
Again and again you offered a covenant to man, and through the prophets taught him to hope for salvation.’*

God comes to meet man in covenants.

**What is a Covenant?** It is a coming together or an agreement.

Many confuse it with a contract. This is not exactly so. E.g Prostitution is a contract. Marriage is a covenant. Owning a slave (contract). Having a son (covenant). Contracts are an exchange of promises. Covenants are oaths. Contracts exchange goods, covenants exchange persons.

**Contract example**: Buyer of a house promises the seller an amount will be paid. The seller promises to give the deeds of the house. They give their word and sign a contract.

**Covenant example:** The promise is upgraded. Not only word, but also swear an oath, calling on God as witness. It submits to God’s judgement and punishment if not upheld. Swearing on the Bible used to be done by opening the Book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 28.

Contracts exchange property or skills or money. e.g. house, work done in exchange for money. Covenants exchange persons. e.g Marriage Covenant. Man swears an oath to woman: I am yours forever. Woman swears oath to man: I am yours forever.

**Covenant in the Bible**. God forges a sacred bond with His people. He will be their God, They will be His people. He will be a father to them, they will be sons and daughters to Him. He will raise them to divine status, and draw them into His family. The human race will transform from merely physical and natural to something spiritual and supernatural.

The whole of the bible story makes sense when it is always seen in the light of this divine family-making.